

RENE BACHE'S BUDGET

WILD BEASTS THAT WE
KNOW BUT LITTLE ABOUT

DISCOVERIES IN NATURAL HISTORY STRANGE AND EXCITING.

Fearsome Creatures of the Forests Almost Unknown Up to the Present Time—The Roperite and the Snoli-goster—How the Slide-rock Bolter Gets Its Prey.

The Squunk and Its Peculiar Habits—Recent Facts About the Whintoser and Gumberoo.

MUCH that was hitherto regarded as mysterious in regard to certain little-known and ferocious animals inhabiting the forests of this country has been made clear by the investigations of an eminent faunal naturalist, William T. Cox, Mr. Cox, who is now state forester of Minnesota, with headquarters at St. Paul, was for many years connected with the government forest service. Incidental to his duties he spent many months in logging camps in more or less remote regions, and learned a great deal about the creatures in question from "lumber jacks" and other experienced persons who had seen them.

Leaves Jackrabbits.
It was in this way that he first heard about the roperite, one of the most remarkable of these beasts, which carries on the end of its nose a sort of running nose. In fact, this prolongation of its snout takes the form of a lance, with which the animal captures jackrabbits and other prey, pursuing the latter with enormous leaps and bounds and uttering the white ferocious yells that can be heard for miles. No one seems to know with definiteness anything about its life history, and many a discussion has been based on the question whether it is born.

hatched from an egg, or comes into existence spontaneously from some mountain cavern. The Digger Indians say that roperites are the spirits of early Spanish ranchers, and blood-curdling are the tales they tell of hapless persons pursued by the beast, snared with its marvelous rope-like beak, and dragged to death through thorny chaparral. According to A. E. Patterson of Hot Springs, Cal., who saw the last specimen authentically reported, the animal has a large set of rattles on its tail, which it vibrates when in pursuit of game, thus producing a whirling sound like that of a giant rattlesnake.

The fact that the animals discussed by Mr. Cox in a book just published by the Buth company, St. Paul (of which the writer is permitted to make the first review), are so little known is mainly attributable, first, to the remoteness of the species concerned, and second, to their seclusion in the densest and least-explored forests, where faunal naturalists generally have not had a chance to come at or describe them.

Thus the strange and dangerous creature known as the snoli-goster is found only in the most remote corners of the south, and particularly in the region about Lake Okoshchee.

The Squunk is Harmless.
The squunk, on the other hand, is an entirely harmless, though very curious beast. It is said to be fairly common in the hemlock forests of Pennsylvania, and it travels about only at twilight. Because of its misfitting skin, which is covered with warts and moles, it is always unhappy. Hunters are able to follow the squunk by its faint, stained trail, for the animal weeps constantly. When cornered and escape seems impossible, it may even dissolve itself in tears. On frosty, moonlight nights, it is often heard weeping under the boughs of dark hemlock trees.

Animal With Telescope Legs.
In the chaparral and foothill forests of California is found the Tripodera, an animal with two long, telescopic legs and a tail like a kangaroo's. This peculiarity of structure enables the creature to elevate itself at will, so that it may tower above the dense chaparral, or, if it chooses, to "pull in" its legs and assume a compact form for crawling through the brush. Its head is nearly all snout, and it kills its prey by discharging from the end thereof pellets of sun-dried clay, which are as powerful as the tangiest of arsenic.

For lack of space reference can be made here only to a few of the interesting and little-known animals described by Mr. Cox, but, in conclusion,

running back behind its ears. Its tail consists of a divided flipper, with huge grab hooks, which it fastens over the crest of a mountain ridge, often remaining there motionless for weeks at a time and watching the gulch for tourists.

At the right moment after sighting a tourist it will lift its tail, thus loosening its hold on the mountains, and, drooping this skid grease from the corners of its mouth (thus greatly accelerating its speed), comes down like a toboggan, scooping in its victim as it goes, its own impetus carrying it to the next slope, where it it again slaps its tail over the ridge and waits.

A forest ranger, whose district includes the rough territory between Ophir Peaks and the Lizard Head, conceived the idea of decoying a slide-rock bolter to its own destruction. A dummy tourist was rigged up with plaid Norfolk jacket, knee breeches and a guide book of Colorado. It was then filled with giant powder and fulminate caps, and posted in a conspicuous place, where, sure enough, the next day it attracted the attention of a bolter which had been hanging round the slide-rock Lizard Head. The resulting explosion flattened half the buildings in Rico, which were never rebuilt.

WOMEN WITHOUT VEILS GET NO RESPECT IN CAIRO. THE MOST EVIL CITY OF THE EAST
FOR THOSE who go for the first time with vague ideas of the glory and richness of the east, Cairo will not disappoint them. The dazzling whiteness of the buildings and mosques against the deep blue curtain of the cloudless sky, the brilliant green of the vegetation, the profusion and riotous color of the flowers, the strange and picturesque garments of the men and women, all go to make up a picture which delights your eye at the time and never fades from your memory.

Even afterwards, you try to recount briefly the most interesting facts and points of a visit to this wonderful, picturesque town, where clouds and rain are practical unknowns, it is difficult to know where to begin. The first impression of the streets themselves is bewildering, which delights your eye at the time and never fades from your memory.

One unpleasant fact a European or an American woman learns in the street, whether she is alone or accompanied by a man, is this: The native man, no matter of how low a class, has not an atom of respect for her. Although she may belong to a governing race, to an upper class, the fact that she is unveiled proves her, to him, to be utterly wanting in modesty, and hence unworthy of respect, and he jostles and insults her accordingly in a way which rouses her justifiable, but useless, indignation.

Even the colored servant employed in her house, while he treats her with outward respect (because his place depends on it), despises and scorns her in his heart, and will not hesitate to let her know his real feelings if he no longer owes his livelihood to your regard.

Cairo, as a town, is divided into two sharply-separated quarters—the European, with its magnificent houses and palaces (often owned by native princes), its barracks and luxurious hotels; and the native, with its evil-smelling, narrow lanes and streets, its beautiful and bizarre mosques.

Outing that strikes the visitor to Egypt for the first time is the immense sincerity and importance of his religion to the Mohammedan man—not to the woman, for she is not supposed to possess a soul and is not even allowed to enter a mosque at prayer-time.

Mohammedan makes no attempt at privacy in exercising his religion. At sundown, at midday and at other appointed hours of prayer, you will at first be surprised to see Arab men stop short in their work or their amusement, and fall on their knees

Years of Suffering

Catarrah and Blood Disease—Doctors Failed to Cure.

Miss Mabel F. Dawkins, 1214 Lafayette St., Fort Wayne, Ind., writes: "For three years I was troubled with catarrah and blood disease. I tried several doctors and a dozen different remedies, but none of them did me any good. A friend told me of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I took two bottles of this medicine and was as well and strong as ever. I feel like a different person and recommend Hood's to any one suffering from catarrah."

Get it today in usual liquid form or chocolate tablets called Sarsatabs.

Just a word ought to be said about the whintoser. This creature, seen occasionally along the coast ranges of California, is of no great size, but remarkably constructed. Its head is flattened to its body by a swivel neck, and so likewise is its short, tapering tail, and both can be spun around at the rate of 100 revolutions a minute. The body is long and triangular in section, with three complete sets of legs. This is a great convenience in an earthquake country. If the floor suddenly becomes a ceiling it does not matter, for the whintoser is always there with its legs. All of its hair is bristly and slants forward at a sharp angle.

A cat's nine lives are as nothing to the ones possessed by a whintoser. This beast may be shot, clubbed or strung on a pike pole without stopping its wriggling, whirling motions, or its screams of rage. The only successful way of killing it is to poke it into a flume pipe so that all its feet strike the surface, when it immediately starts to walk in three different directions at once and tears itself apart.

Rene Bache.

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